27

Smithville April 4th 40

Friend Garrison: In looking over the Liberator of March 27th I see a communication from Amasa Walker declining his position as an anti-slavery lecturer and giving his reasons for the same. In conclusion he says "I have no desire to provoke discussion, but I would like to have my two principle questions answered. How can the American Union be dissolved but by political action? How can such a dissolution effect the peaceful emancipation of the slave?"

Whether I shall be able to answer the questions or not I do not know nor do I think that it is necessary for me to do so to prove that my friends position is wrong, but let us see the first question. It is evident to me that the constitution of the United States would be broken up, the American Union which is sealed and held together at the price of the liberty of 3 millions of its inhabitants would be dissolved if it were not for political action. Then if this be true friend Walkers question is answered, and if it be right that the American Union be dissolved there we are doing our share by staying away from the polls, and doing nothing directly. And all the action we have to make to get the American Union dissolved is for all abolitionists to do as we, namely just doing nothing. But it seems my friend dont want the Union dissolved in the first place, and in the second place he wanted the gentleman to show him how it could be effected but by political action. He is an anti-slavery man does vote and of course votes for the abolition of Slavery, but against the dissolution of the Union. He asks me to vote for the abolition of Slavery and as the Union is a secondary matter, if I am opposed I may vote for its dissolution. Now it seems voting will do almost anything we wish it to; it reminds me of a drunken mans account of whiskey when he is sober it will make him rebel sober. He is sick it will make him well &c. For J C Calhoun and Daniel Webster it will uphold Slavery for J Q Adams and Giddings it will abolish

it for Thomas Walker and J J Barney it will uphold the Constitution and abolish Slavery and for the desunists it will it will do all they can wish but if we may judge of the future by the past and present we cannot hope, much less expect that any thing will ever be done for the poor in bonds but that the politicians will continue to ride rough shod over humanity and the lives, liberty and sacred rights of the poor and down trodden slave. Friend Walker goes on to talk against the dissolution of the Union as unchristian and calculated to provoke an insurrection, why friend Walker does there not strike you that such an act as that would be likely to raise or be the means of rousing and insurrection? he assures us he could, without much stretch of the imagination, suppose that after the poor had been separated from the Slave States, and the Military support of the System was withdrawn the scenes of St Domingo may be rehearsed on the Cotton plantations of Georgia &c". Then dear friend you must admit that it is the Military support of the free States that keeps the slaves where they are as he himself will vote for men to lead on that Military, in case the slaves should declare they were free and force them back to be Slaves, to be hewers and drawers of wood &c. Certainly this is outstripping with a strong hand, but friend remember that, that, that a man does through an agent by does himself and that if he votes for a man he knows before hand that if that man is called upon to lead an army to put down an insurrection it is no more than what he has requested him to do by his vote, he only does it through his agency. Friend Walker then goes on to wish that the arguments of the abolitionists Slavery in favor of the inalienable right of man and not against the American constitution. But if the Compromises of the Constitution are the cause of Slavery, or rather if the Compromises of the Constitution are the effect of the pro Slavery political actions of which the pro slavery Spirit is the cause and if to be connected with the Constitution

o be connected with Slavery would it not be best to strike at the cause & at least at the production of the first cause, strike at the very foundation of Government and leave no political apology for Slavery, by this & the inalienable right of men are denied, and by breaking it up for this cause it will show that the people becoming sensible to Slavery that they will not uphold it if they will do nothing against it. We have all been upholding Slavery by recognising ourselves with political men but and if we cease to working politically under the Constitution if we do nothing more, we do not be doing wrong. But there is more to do and let us all be doing something in our own way being careful that that way is not in any way connected with pro Slavery, but let us be consistent and what we do let us do consistantly.

I Shine for the dissolution of the Hard Shined American Union and the immediate and unconditional abolition of Slavery

J C Jeffris

Embrace Pillsbury
Apr. 4 45

16

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